

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has deleted the work "etc." from claim 1 and deleted claim 4.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pawson, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,722,124). Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rusch, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,442,933). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Pawson reference nor the Rusch reference disclose that the "reducing agent supplying nozzle is of a double pipe structure." Thus the claims now fully distinguish applicants' invention from the cited art.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 4, 2008

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